

Downtown development and Main Street revitalization efforts have contributed significantly to building safer communities, stronger economies, and better quality of life across America. New Iberia, LA, is a superb example of how these cooperative efforts can improve communities. Today, I give the people of New Iberia my thanks and praise.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF REV. MONSIGNOR STANLEY E. MILEWSKI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to plans to honor a distinguished religious leader in Michigan, Monsignor Stanley Milewski. Monsignor Milewski will be honored at a special service of thanksgiving followed by a dinner reception on Sunday, June 5, 2005, on the St. Mary's Orchard Lake Schools campus. The tribute will mark his 50th anniversary as a Polish-American diocesan priest.

Since his ordination into the priesthood on June 4, 1955, by Cardinal Edward Mooney in Detroit, Monsignor Milewski has been an important part of the history of the Polish pastoral ministry in Michigan and in the United States. Monsignor Milewski has earned the respect and admiration of people throughout Michigan and across the United States, and is especially admired by the approximately three-quarters of a million people of Polish descent who are part of the Archdiocese of Detroit, because of his devotion to service and confident leadership through years of ministry.

Born in Detroit to Polish immigrants on November 30, 1929, Monsignor Milewski received his primary and secondary education in Catholic parochial schools in Detroit. He earned his undergraduate degree from St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake and completed graduate studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, MI, and at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake. SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary enjoys the distinction of being the only Polish seminary in the United States and was founded in Detroit in 1885. Monsignor Milewski was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Alliance College in Pennsylvania and an honorary doctorate of theology degree from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. He was later appointed to the faculty of the Orchard Lake Schools in January 1957, and his responsibilities have included procurator-treasurer, teacher, athletic director, and vice rector. He served as chancellor of the Lake Orchard Schools from 1977 to 2000.

Monsignor Milewski's appointments include the Prelate of Honor of His Holiness John Paul II on March 20, 1990, Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Plock, and Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Lomza. In addition to the many recognitions and awards he has re-

ceived, Monsignor Milewski was honored to have the Pope visit the 120-acre Orchard Lake Schools campus in 1969. Of that visit, Monsignor said, "From that point on, I really got to know what a great man he was and what a tremendous memory he had." He recalls how the Pope once remarked that the seminary at Orchard Lakes was the most beautiful Polish seminary in the world. The campus includes the John Paul II center, a museum of artifacts and photos.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Monsignor Milewski on his faithfulness to his calling and on his many achievements in the pastoral ministry. I am pleased to express my sincere appreciation to him on his 50th anniversary and to wish him many more years of good health and happiness.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WALKER

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to an outstanding public servant, educator, and communicator, Charlie Walker. Charlie is retiring after a distinguished 40-year career in teaching and government service at the local, State and Federal levels, most recently as director of government affairs for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of dedicated service and contributions to the American people.

Born in Charleston, WV, Charlie spent much of his youth and career in Baltimore, MD. He was a graduate of Clifton Park Junior High and Baltimore's City College, one of the oldest and finest public high schools in the country. He won scholarships to Towson State Teachers College, now Towson University, where he excelled academically and in his extracurricular activities, selected to serve not only as president of the Phi Alpha Theta Honorary Society in history but also as a manager of three sports teams—soccer, wrestling, and track. Upon graduation in 1963, Charlie taught for 3 years in Baltimore's secondary schools and then enrolled in West Virginia University to earn a master's degree in history. In 1966, Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for a 3-year period in Vietnam and at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He returned to West Virginia University to obtain a Ph.D. in history, and worked in various and progressively responsible positions in local, State and Federal Government, including service as an historian and public affairs officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an aide to the mayor of Baltimore and a research analyst with the Library of Congress.

In 1987, Charlie Walker was tapped to lead the public affairs office of the newly established Maryland Department of the Environment, and it was in this position that I first had the opportunity and privilege of working closely with Charlie. A highly skilled commu-

nicator and manager, Charlie assembled a terrific team to promote the initiatives of the new department and to protect and restore the quality of Maryland's air, water, and land resources. Charlie and his team set a standard for outreach and responsiveness that few, if any, agencies have been able to match. He served in this position until 1991 when he was recruited, as government affairs officer for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help the district restore relations and responsiveness with the Congress and other levels of government. Over the past 14 years, Charlie has been a trusted adviser to six district engineers, and the principal point of contact for Members of Congress and our staffs from the Five States and the District of Columbia, which encompass the Baltimore District's jurisdiction.

With his in-depth knowledge, political astuteness, and a dedication to public service that is second to none, Charlie has remained a constant force in moving the Army Corps of Engineers' programs and services forward. He is well known, widely respected, and well liked, not only among the staff at the Baltimore District but throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and beyond. He is the core of the Corps. His advice is constantly sought for improving communications and relations with the press, the public and with elected officials at all levels of government. Over the years, he has inspired great loyalty in the members of the Baltimore District staff and affection from the countless others with whom he has worked. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Throughout the course of his career, Charlie has received numerous honors including the Commander's Award for Civil Service, Governor's Salute to Excellence Award, and the Maryland Department of the Environment Award for Outstanding Public Service. In addition to his public service, Charlie has volunteered a great deal of time and energy serving on the numerous organizations, including the Phi Alpha Theta History Society, the Society of American Military Engineers, and the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs.

It is my firm conviction that public service and teaching are among the most honorable callings. They demand the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens. Throughout his career Charlie Walker has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting this demand. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication and wish him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSIE HALE DOWNS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Today, with a great sense of honor and respect, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Jessie Hale Downs for

her humane and charitable service to the city of Birmingham, AL.

In 1944, Mrs. Hale and her husband, Jimmie Hale, cofounded the Downtown Jimmie Hale Mission in Birmingham. These two individuals founded this mission to help rescue scores of individuals from homelessness and addiction. On November 17, 1944, Jimmie Hale died, leaving his young wife widowed and expecting their first daughter in January of 1945.

The death of her husband left her with nothing, so Mrs. Hale was taken in by a friend, and 2 months later she gave birth to a daughter. Later, Jessie married a man who had been aided by the Jimmie Hale Mission, Joe Downs. Unfortunately, he never overcame his addiction and after 2½ years of marriage and the birth of a daughter, he left the family.

Nevertheless, Jessie Hale Downs remained resolve in her dedication to the Jimmie Hale Mission, and she refused to let her late husband's dream die. Mrs. Downs is gifted with a great sense of leadership and a spirit of love for humanity. She served as the executive director of the Mission for 46 years and even today travels to churches and civic meetings to share the story of the Jimmie Hale Mission and what they have to offer.

Because of her unwavering dedication to the Mission, which began as a lone storefront chapel ministering to the men on the streets of downtown Birmingham, the Mission has now expanded into a six-facility, holistic-approach ministry in central Alabama committed to helping people break the chains of addiction and homelessness.

While Jimmie Hale envisioned the ministry, Jessie Hale Downs saw the Mission to fruition. Now, at the age of 88, Mrs. Downs is the matriarch and heartbeat of the Jimmie Hale Mission. I would like to offer thanks for a life lived to serve the less fortunate. The community of Birmingham and the State of Alabama are better off because Mrs. Jessie Hale Downs has lived among us.●

STANDING SOUTH DAKOTANS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate two outstanding men from South Dakota, Staff Sergeant Eric Borah of New Underwood and Sergeant Daniel Iverson of Madison. Both men have been honored this year for their unwavering dedication to our country.

Eric, a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic in the South Dakota Army Guard's 235th Military Police Company from Custer, has been named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Daniel, an Army Bandsman with the South Dakota Army Guard's 147th Army Band from Mitchell, was named Soldier of the year.

Eric and Daniel will be recognized in Washington, DC two of the Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year for the National Guard. It is with

great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to these two men not only for their admirable achievements but also for the great name that they bring to the State of South Dakota.●

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. MATTH TOEBBEN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Mr. Matth Toeppen of Northern Kentucky, who was recently honored with one of the "Movers and Shakers" awards for the Greater Cincinnati area. Mr. Toeppen's life accomplishments and dedication to Commonwealth of Kentucky have given me reason to be proud.

I believe Mr. Toeppen to be the embodiment of the American Dream. After immigrating to the United States from Borger, Germany in 1953 with only \$10 to his name, he used all of his money to buy a train ticket to Cincinnati. Upon arrival in the area, Mr. Toeppen took up not only one job, but two jobs as a carpenter for a Ft. Wright home builder in Northern Kentucky. He worked both night and day saving as much money as he could. This quickly paid off and by 1955, only 2 years after his arrival to the United States, Mr. Toeppen started his own business, Toeppen Builders and Developers.

The "Movers and Shakers" award of Northern Kentucky is an annual award presented to honor those within the Greater Cincinnati region who stand as an example for all. It is presented by the Kentucky Enquirer, the Sales and Marketing Council of Northern Kentucky, The Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky and The Kentucky Post.

As a Senator from Kentucky, I commend Mr. Toeppen for his hard work and dedication. I hope that he will serve as an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2566. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

At 4:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

At 5:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 810. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

H.R. 2520. An act to provide for the collection and maintenance of human cord blood stem cells for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program.

H.R. 2528. An act making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2566. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 7:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, and asks for a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill (except title X), and the Senate amendment (except title V), and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Alaska, PETRI, BOEHLERT, COBLE, DUNCAN, MICA, HOEKSTRA, LATOURETTE, BACHUS, BAKER, GARY C. MILLER of California,